

Meeting Date: May 17, 2007

Agenda Item No. 10

Agenda Item: Fish and Game Advisory Committee Statewide Update

Approved by: ____

Prepared by: Brad Compton

Background:

The purpose of the statewide Fish and Game Advisory Committee (FGAC) meetings was 2-fold:

- (1) to provide sportsmen and landowners with information on the landowner and sportsmen programs that relate to lands and wildlife; and
- (2) to solicit input from both sportsmen and landowners about how to increase incentives for the *Access Yes!* program and how to make the habitat programs available to landowners more usable.

These meetings also provided an opportunity for landowners and sportsmen to better understand each others' perspectives and to realize they have more in common than generally perceived. In addition, the Director requested the Committee to specifically facilitate discussions with landowners and sportsmen on how private land access for sportsmen and private land habitat can be maintained or improved. The focus was to keep working lands working.

Policy issues:

None.

Public Involvement Process:

Lists of both sportsmen and landowners were solicited from the Landowner Sportsmen Coordinators in each region as well as list of landowner and sportsmen from the FGAC. Individual letters of invitation were sent to all on the list and in addition many of the committee members personally called those invited. There were 7 meetings around the state over a 3 month period. Each meeting lasted approximately 3 hours: with an informational presentation by IDFG regarding the Landowner programs (Landowner Appreciation Program, *Access Yes!* and the Depredation Prevention/Compensation Program). Representatives from the Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS) and Farm Services Association (FSA), and the Department of Agriculture also presented the habitat programs that are available to landowners. After these presentations, the group was divided into 2 focus groups to generate ideas on habitat and *Access Yes!*

Justification:

None: Informational update to the Commission on FGAC activities

Action Requested:

None. Information update.

Staff Recommendations:

Soliciting input on FGAC activities